

Juries - 1930

BAR ASSOCIATION DEMANDS COLORED JURORS

St. Louis, Mo., June 13—(ANP) After hearing a complaint by representatives of the Mound City Bar Association, an organization composed of colored attorneys, that our folk are being denied their rightful opportunity to serve as jurors, the matter will be investigated by Circuit Judges.

The decision was reached last Sat. I was charged not more than nine Negroes had been drawn on jury panels in the last five years. John A. Davis, president of the association, said there are 5,000 Negroes in St. Louis eligible for Jury service. He added they should have the same opportunity for service granted his race in various other cities, even in Texas.

Amos Seaman, chief jury supervisor, explained when he prepares the jury lists he has no way to tell whether the individuals are colored or white.

he date for further consideration of

The Circuit Judges set July 1 as the situation. Approximately 40,000 jurors are drawn for the Circuit Courts each year. Their pay recently was raised from \$1.50 a day to \$3.

BAR ASS'N SEEKS COLORED JURORS FOR MO. COURTS

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NEGRO CHOSEN ON GRAND JURY FOR NEW TERM



H. P. ("Horse Power") CARTER, state manager for the National Benefit Life Insurance Company, who was sworn in as a member of the Harris County grand jury last Monday, is one of Houston's most prominent young business men and holds many offices of trust in the city and state. He is president of the Elks' State Convention, secretary of the Business Men's Club and of the colored division of the Houston Commission on Interracial Cooperation.

Columbus, Ga. Enquirer-Sun
Thursday, March 20, 1930

Hoover Nomination For Negro Jurist Fought By Texans

AUSTIN, Texas, March 19—(AP)— Scoring the nomination by President Hoover of a negro for appointment to a judgeship in the District of Columbia, Senator Thomas J. Holbrook, of Galveston, today introduced a resolution in the senate calling for the Brookhart congressional committee to conduct a further investigation of republican patronage practices. The resolution was adopted by a rising vote.

Bankhead Admits He Put A Negro On A Jury

John H. Bankhead admits he struck three white men and put a negro on a jury in Walker County. But he tried to cover his assault on the great Southern doctrine of White Supremacy by saying he did not see the negro until he had struck the three white men and accepted the jury.

In a letter to the Mountain Eagle, and other papers in the State, Mr. Bankhead pleads guilty to the crime but pleads ignorance of the fact that he selected a negro until the jury had been accepted. How ridiculous!

Mr. Bankhead says in his letter that he should not be criticised for putting a negro on the jury because Senator Heflin has not passed a law in Congress preventing him (Bankhead) from violating the UNWRITTEN LAW OF THE SOUTH. Mr. Bankhead takes the position that if the people do not want him to put negroes on a jury then Senator Heflin will have to repeal the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments to the Constitution.

It is strange that Congressman Will Bankhead does not bring relief to his brother and pass a law preventing Mr. Bankhead from putting negroes on a jury. Mr. Bankhead, instead of asking Senator Heflin to pass a law preventing him from putting negroes on a jury, should call on Congressman Buck Oliver, Congressman Lister Hill, and the other Congressmen who are asking the people of Alabama to send a man to the Senate who is guilty of an act that strikes at the very heart of Southern Democracy.

If John Bankhead had believed in White Supremacy as does Tom Heflin he would have kept faith with the unwritten law of the South and his first strike, instead of being a white man, would have been the negro.

But let one of the white men, who was forced to sit with Mr. Bankhead's negro juror for two days, reply to Mr. Bankhead's letter to the Mountain Eagle and other papers in the State.

A Sworn Statement

"TO THE MOUNTAIN EAGLE:

"John Bankhead's letter published in your paper about him taking a negro on the jury in a case he tried at Jasper needs correcting.

"I was on that jury. The case was between two coal companies. John Bankhead was one of the lawyers for the plaintiff. I have seen the original complaint which was first filed in court and Bankhead and Bankhead were signed to it as attorneys. **

"John Bankhead selected the jury for his side. He excused three white citizens of Walker county and took the negro.

"The negro was sitting in the jury box in plain view when John Bankhead struck the white men off, and everybody except John could see he was a negro. If John was too color blind to tell he was a negro, then John is not a safe man on social equality.

"(Signed) RUFUS M. TIDWELL."

Subscribed and sworn before me, this the 13th day of October, 1930.

(Signed) BEN KIRK, Notary Public.

**Mr. Bankhead denied that he or his firm filed the complaint.
(Paid Political Adv. by J. Thomas Heflin, LaFayette, Ala.)

Tuesday, October 7, 1930

THAT NEGRO JUROR

Enemies of the state democratic ticket have become so desperate that they are relying on such things as negroes on federal juries to bring them victory. Heflin has made the charge that on one occasion Bank-

head tried a case in federal court with a negro on the jury.

Mr. Bankhead has sent The Tribune a letter in which he fully explains the negro's presence on the jury. The letter is as follows:

"The case which I tried with a negro on the jury was tried in the federal court. I am not responsible for the practice of having negroes on federal juries. That is done by republican federal officeholders—a crowd with which Heflin is now allied.

"I was employed by another lawyer to assist him in a damage suit against a coal company. We represented the plaintiff.

"I was engaged in my campaign for the senate four years ago, and had not been in the federal court that week until the morning our case was set for trial. It was the first case.

"We went over a list of the jury and decided that our client's interest demanded that three men on the list be challenged. Each side had only three strikes. When the striking had been completed I noticed for the first time that a negro was on the jury. I did not put the negro on the jury list.

"Mr. Arthur Fite (a Heflin supporter) was the lawyer for the defendant. I don't know whether he noticed that a negro was on the jury. I know that he did not strike the negro from the jury. Senator Heflin has recommended Mr. Fite to President Hoover for appointment as federal judge at Montgomery.

"A lawyer in Birmingham has informed me that at one time several negroes were on the jury in the federal court at Birmingham.

"During Heflin's long service he has made no effort to relieve us from negro jury service in the federal courts.

"Few men in Alabama, who never held an office, have given more of their time and means to the cause of white supremacy and in opposition to political and social equality of the races than I have."

"JOHN H. BANKHEAD"

On D. C. Female Jury



—Scurlock Photo.

Mrs. Gertrude Dabney (left) and Mrs. Florence Weaver, prominent Washington ladies, who were among the first colored women to serve on a jury in the District of Columbia, composed of all women. Last week this jury heard the evidence in the trial of Jack Jones, charged with stabbing. Their verdict was guilty.

Wilmington, N. C. News Dispatch

Monday, October 27, 1930

Negro Serves On Federal Jury Here For First Time In Years

A negro served on the petit jury of the Wilmington division federal court this morning for the first time in the past thirty years.

He was Gilbert H. Hollins, of Brunswick county, and was a member of the jury that found Taywood Hassell, also a negro, guilty of violation of the prohibition law. Will Hassell, negro, was also tried with Haywood but pleaded guilty. Will, having spent some time in jail awaiting trial, was sentenced to one day while the other was given a year and a day by Presiding Judge I. M. Meekins.

Another negro, who sat with Hollins in the courtroom, was said to be included in the venire but this fact could not be determined. The jury order of S. A. Ashe, clerk, indicated but one colored man.

Other criminal actions tried this morning were:

Andrew Sutton, violation of prohibition law, pleaded guilty, judgment not pronounced.